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Robyn Vouden, Northern Beaches Hospital theatre nurse, clocks up 50 years on the job

She's devoted 50 years to nursing, but Robyn Vouden hopes to still do the odd shift after she retires.

Julie Cross, Manly Daily

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 Robyn Vouden, a theatre nurse at Northern Beaches Hospital, clocks up 50 years of service. Picture: Supplied.

A northern beaches nurse has notched up 50 years of continuous service.

Robyn Vouden, 67, grew up in Balgowlah and Forestville, before embarking on her long career as an enrolled nurse at Royal North Shore Hospital aged 17.

In the early 1980s she became a registered nurse, all while bringing up three children.

She later joined Manly Hospital and became a Clinical Nurse Specialist educating many nurses in day surgery and endoscopic procedures.

In 2018, she was one of around 800 staff from Manly and Mona Vale hospitals that moved to Northern Beaches Hospital when it opened.



 Theatre nurse Robyn Vouden celebrates 50 years of service with Gareth Craddock, Director of Business

Ms Vouden played a pivotal role in the establishment of the endoscopy unit before the opening of the hospital. Today the hospital is a leader in the field of endoscopy.

Those staff who moved from public hospitals retained their continuous service and last week more than 60 staff received long service awards for their efforts.

Northern Beaches Hospital chief executive officer, Andrew Newton said it was a unique honour to present long service awards of up to 50 years for a hospital that is just two years old.

“Staff, like Robyn, started the journey with us at Northern Beaches Hospital,” Mr Newton said.

“It was a time of uncertainty for everyone but people, like Robyn, bravely lead the way and their wealth of experience is the key to our success of the hospital.”



Left to right: Vanessa Burke, Nurse Unit Manager of Interventional Suite at Northern Beaches Hospital; theatre nurse Robyn Vouden and Dr Stuart Pincott, chair of the Medical Advisory Committee. Picture: Supplied.

Ms Vouden, who now lives in Narrabeena, said she was nervous about the move to Northern Beaches Hospital in 2018.

“I’d always been a public hospital nurse and had never worked in the private sector but I was pleasantly surprised by the brand new hospital and its excellent technology,” she said.

“I’ve learned new things and met lots of new friends.

“I’m shattered about retiring but, at 67, you get to the stage where your bones won’t be able to keep the full-time pace.

“I’m moving to Queensland to be with my three daughters, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren so I’ll be pretty busy.

“And I hope to pick up a shift here and there at the local hospital. I love the job too much to give it up completely.”